

been several efforts in this direction before the final and most formidable one was launched. A huge portrait of Roosevelt was displayed on the platform and the convention—in the language of an eye witness—'exploded.' In the midst of the pandemonium Senator Lodge began to call the roll for a ballot. So deafening was the noise that not till the name* of Massachusetts was reached on the alphabetical list, were the reporters able to record the vote. The discovery was then made that TafVs nomination was assured, and the convention subsided into quiet. What Roosevelt thought of Senator Lodge's service to him on this occasion was shown in a letter that he wrote to Mrs. Lodge on the following day, June 19, 1908:

"I wish to send you just a line, primarily to say how admirably I think (Jabot handled the peculiarly delicate and difficult work at Chicago. In point of judgment, taste and power it would be literally Impossible to better either his words or his actions. He was in a peculiar sense the guardian not only of the national interests, but of my own personal honor; and to do his full duty as guardian it was necessary for him effectively to thwart the movements not merely of my foes but of the multitude of well-meaning friends who did not think deeply or who were not of very sensitive fiber. It was absolutely necessary that any stampede should be prevented, and that I should not be nominated; for now that it is over we can confess to one another

that It would have been well-nigh impossible
for me to re-
fuse further the nomination, and perhaps ruin
the party
thereby, if the nomination had actually boon
made; and yet
if I had accepted, my power for useful service
would have
forever been lessened, because nothing could
have pre-
vented the wide diffusion of the suspicion that
I had not
really meant what I had said, that my actions
did not really
square with the highest and finest code of
ethics—and if
there is any value whatever In my career, as
far as my
countrymen are concerned, It consists in
their belief that
I have been an efficient public man, and at
the same time
a disinterested public servant,⁰